Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for analyzing relationships between individuals comprising the steps of:

obtaining organizational relationship data based upon an organization structure and recording the organizational relationship data in a relationship data store;

obtaining project-based relationship data based upon project-specific collaborations and recording the project-based relationship data in the relationship data store;

obtaining social relationship data based upon social interactions and recording the social relationship data in the relationship data store;

with respect to at least one of the relationships, assigning a first affinity value to the at least one relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in one direction and assigning a second affinity value to the at least one relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in another direction, whereby the at least one relationship is a bidirectional relationship;

dynamically and continuously altering ~~the organizational relationship, the project-based relationship, and the social relationship~~ the first and second affinity values based on detected communication events including informal social interactions between the individuals;

~~with respect to at least one of the relationships, associating a first affinity value to the at least one relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in one direction and associating a second affinity value to the at least one relationship to indicate~~

~~the relative strength of the relationship in another direction, whereby the at least one relationship is a bidirectional relationship;~~

receiving a relationship inquiry;

querying the relationship data recorded in the relationship data store;

generating a ~~query result in~~ response to the relationship inquiry based upon data gathered from the relationship data store ~~relationships from multiple relationship categories~~; and

graphically illustrating the ~~query result~~ response in at least one of a unified relationship chart and a relationship linkage chart, wherein the unified relationship chart illustrates relationships among individuals using data from at least two different relationship categories, and wherein the relationship linkage chart illustrates at least one relationship linkage including a chain of relationships that connect two individuals.

2-3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, said querying step further comprising the steps of:

identifying at least two individuals; and

determining at least one relationship linkage between said identified individuals.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, said determining step further comprising the steps of:

determining at least two relationship linkages between said identified individuals;

determining a linkage strength for said each relationship linkage; and

selecting a preferred one of said relationship linkages based upon said linkage strengths.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein each linkage strength is based at least in part upon affinity values for relationships included within relationship linkages.

7-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the unified relationship chart and the relationship linkage chart is generated by the steps of:

illustrating individuals as nodes and relationships as line segments connecting said nodes; and

illustrating different relationship categories using visually distinct line segments.

10-27. (Cancelled).

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

dynamically modifying at least a portion of said recorded relationship data based upon communication events occurring within an information management system.

29-32. (Cancelled).

33. (New) A computer-implemented relationship management system comprising:

means for obtaining organizational relationship data based upon an organization structure, project-based relationship data based upon project-specific collaborations, and social relationship data based upon social interactions;

a relationship data store for storing the obtained organizational relationship data, project-specific relationship data, and social relationship data;

relationship weight engine for assigning a first affinity value to a relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in one direction and assigning a second affinity value to the relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in another direction, whereby the is a bidirectional relationship;

means for dynamically and continuously altering the first and second affinity values based on detected communication events including informal social interactions between the individuals;

a query engine configured to receive inquiries, query the relationship data recorded in the relationship data store, and generate responses based on data gathered from the relationship data store; and

a relationship illustrator for graphically illustrating the responses in at least one of a unified relationship chart and a relationship linkage chart, wherein the unified relationship chart illustrates relationships among individuals using data from at least two different relationship categories, and wherein the relationship linkage chart illustrates at least one relationship linkage including a chain of relationships that connect two individuals.

34. (New) The relationship management system of claim 33, further comprising: a linkage analyzer configured to determine at least one relationship linkage between two individuals.

35. (New) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

obtaining organizational relationship data based upon an organization structure and recording the organizational relationship data in a relationship data store;

obtaining project-based relationship data based upon project-specific collaborations and recording the project-based relationship data in the relationship data store;

obtaining social relationship data based upon social interactions and recording the social relationship data in the relationship data store;

with respect to at least one of the relationships, assigning a first affinity value to the at least one relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in one direction and assigning a second affinity value to the at least one relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in another direction, whereby the at least one relationship is a bidirectional relationship;

dynamically and continuously altering the first and second affinity values based on detected communication events including informal social interactions between the individuals;

receiving a relationship inquiry;

querying the relationship data recorded in the relationship data store;

generating a response to the relationship inquiry based upon data gathered from the relationship data store; and

graphically illustrating the response in at least one of a unified relationship chart and a relationship linkage chart, wherein the unified relationship chart illustrates relationships among individuals using data from at least two different relationship categories, and wherein the relationship linkage chart illustrates at least one relationship linkage including a chain of relationships that connect two individuals.
relationship.

36. (New) The machine-readable storage of claim 35, said querying step further comprising the steps of:

identifying at least two individuals; and

determining at least one relationship linkage between said identified individuals.

37. (New) The machine-readable storage of claim 36, said determining step further comprising the steps of:

determining at least two relationship linkages between said identified individuals;

determining a linkage strength for said each relationship linkage; and

selecting a preferred one of said relationship linkages based upon said linkage strengths.

38. (New) The machine-readable storage of claim 37, wherein each linkage strength is based at least in part upon affinity values for relationships included within relationship linkages.

39. (New) The machine-readable storage of claim 35, wherein the at least one of the unified relationship chart and the relationship linkage chart is generated by the steps of:

illustrating individuals as nodes and relationships as line segments connecting said nodes; and

illustrating different relationship categories using visually distinct line segments.

40. (New) The machine-readable storage of claim 35, further comprising the steps of:

dynamically modifying at least a portion of said recorded relationship data based upon communication events occurring within an information management system.